

## Message Text

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53

ACTION NEA-12

INFO OCT-01 EUR-25 IO-15 ISO-00 CCO-00 SSO-00 NSCE-00

USIE-00 INRE-00 USSS-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-07 H-03

INR-10 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-10 PA-03 RSC-01 PRS-01 SPC-03

SS-15 ACDA-19 PPT-02 SCA-01 SCS-03 OPR-02 AF-10 DRC-01

/147 W

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O P 091411Z OCT 73

FM AMEMBASSY TEL AVIV

TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 0045

INFO AMEMBASSY AMMAN PRIORITY

AMEMBASSY BEIRUT PRIORITY

USINT CAIRO PRIORITY

AMCONSUL JERUSALEM PRIORITY

AMEMBASSY JIDDA PRIORITY

QRUEHMO/AMEMBASSY MOSCOW PRIORITY 1146

RUDOCJXAMEMBASSY LONDON PRIORITY 2151

AMEMBASSY PARIS PRIORITY

/USMISSION USUN NY PRIORITY 3858

AMEMBASSY ROME PRIORITY

C O N F I D E N T I A L TEL AVIV 7904

E O 11652: GDS

TAGS: PINS, PINT, IS

SUBJECT: ISRAEL SITUATION REPORT

1. SENSE OF CALM CONTINUES TO PREVAIL OVER ISRAEL. CITIES  
APPEAR NORMAL ALTHOUGH USUALLY HEAVY ISRAELI TRAFFIC IS LACKING  
AND MILITARY-AGED MEN ARE CONSPICUOUSLY ABSENT. ISRAELIS  
CAN BE SEEN GATHERING IN GROUPS LISTENING TO NEWS BROADCASTS.  
STORES CONTINUE TO BE WELL STOCKED AND DISTRIBUTION SYSTEM IS  
OPERATING MORE EFFECTIVELY AS TIME GOES BY. NO RATIONING HAS  
BEEN PUT INTO EFFECT BY GOI.

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2. LOD AIRPORT REOPENED ON ITS REGULAR SCHEDULE MORNING OF

OCTOBER 9 AND FOREIGN AIRLINES HAVE BEEN SO INFORMED. AIRPORT SOURCES HAVE STATED THAT OVER 4000 PASSENGERS ARRIVED OR DEPARTED FROM LOD DURING PAST 24 HOURS. ALTHOUGH ONLY HIGH SCHOOLS WERE OPEN YESTERDAY, ALL SCHOOLS, INCLUDING KINDERGARTENS, WERE OPERATIONAL TODAY. PRESS REPORTS THAT SETTLEMENTS IN NORTHERN ISRAEL THAT HAD BEEN EVACUATED ARE NOW BACK IN OPERATION.

3. OCCUPIED TERRITORIES CONTINUE TO REMAIN CALM AND MORE WORKERS THAN YESTERDAY SHOWED UP FOR WORK, MAINLY BECAUSE LIMITED BUS SERVICE HAS BEEN RESUMED. JORDAN RIVER BRIDGES REMAIN OPEN BUT TRAFFIC IS SAID TO BE LESS THAN USUAL.

4. INQUIRES BY US CITIZENS HAVE FALLEN OFF TO PRACTICALLY NOTHING. VISA SECTION HAS BEEN PROCESSING VERY FEW APPLICANTS DURING DAY.

5. POLITICAL ACTIVITY FOR FORTHCOMING KNESSET ELECTIONS HAS BEEN SUSPENDED SINCE OUTBREAK OF WAR. ACCORDING TO SOME REPORTS OCT 30 ELECTIONS MAY BE POSTPONED, ALTHOUGH FINAL DECISION HAS NOT YET BEEN REACHED.

6. DISQUIET AMONG ISRAELIS OVER LACK OF INFO ON MILITARY SITUATION HAS BEEN DISPELLED AS IDF HAS LAUNCHED ITS COUNTEROFFENSIVE AND SUCCESSES HAVE BEEN REPORTED ON RADIO. MILITARY COMMENTATORS HAVE PRESENTED SOBER ANALYSES ON RADIO TO EFFECT THAT SITUATION ON GOLAN HEIGHTS HAS STABILIZED BUT THAT ISRAELI FORCES STILL FACE TOUGH FIGHTING ALONG SUEZ CANAL. ISRAELI PUBLIC STILL HAS NO IDEA OF SCALE OF CASUALTIES (IDF PRACTICE IS NOT TO PUBLICLY ANNOUNCE CASUALTY FIGURES) BUT WITH INTENSITY OF FIGHTING, MANY ISRAELIS HAVE COME TO THEIR OWN CONCLUSION THAT THE FIGURES WILL BE HIGH.

7. AFTERNOON NEWS BROADCASTS CARRIED REPORTS THAT SYRIANS HAVE FIRED SOME 20 FROG MISSILES DURING PAST THREE DAYS AT CIVILIAN SETTLEMENTS INSIDE PRE-1967 ISRAELI BORDERS AND SOME CASUALTIES HAD OCCURRED. THIS NEWS ITEM WAS IMMEDIATELY FOLLOWED BY ANNOUNCEMENT THAT IAF WAS CONDUCTING AIR STRIKES  
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AGAINST MILITARY TARGETS IN AND AROUND DAMASCUS. THIS Juxtaposition of news items should defuse any aroused feelings on part of Israeli public because of civilian casualties resulting from missile firings.  
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## Message Attributes

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